The Secretary also reported to the Council a memorial just received from the Kshemalochana Sangham, Quilon, regarding the Bill to amend the Towns Conservancy and Improvement Regulation.

THE TOWNS CONSERVANCY AND IMPROVEMENT REGULATION AMENDMENT BILL.

Mr. Thanu Pillai.—The Bill which, with the Council's permission, I beg to introduce is an important measure. Though generally built upon the existing organisation, it has a deeper foundation and a wider scope than the present law. It is in fact the first real step towards municipal action proper. In the constitution, powers and responsibilities of the committees and in other important points, there is, in the present Bill, a distinct onward move. I feel confident than none in this Council and few outside it will fail to take a correct measure of the significance and potentiality of this measure. You are probably aware that municipal government of a kind was introduced in Madras so early as 1688, though municipal action proper was commenced only in 1792, under Statute 33, George III, Cap. 52. Clause 187 of the Statute empowered the Justices of the Peace " to appoint scavengers for cleansing the streets of the town .....to order the watching and repairing of the streets therein, and for the purpose of defraying the expenses thereof, from time to time, to make an equal assessment or assessments on the owners or occupiers of houses, buildings and grounds in the town according to the true and real annual value thereof....." Municipal action in the mofussil in the Madras Presidency began nearly half a century ago, with the passing of India Act XXVI of 1850. In the Native State of Mysore, municipal government has existed now for many years. I believe there is at the present day hardly any civilized country which has not some kind of municipal institution, with duties and privileges varying with the character and condition of the people. Municipality is the best school for the public education of citizens. It is to the Legislative Council what primary schools are to high schools. I feel that I by no means subordinate truth to patriotism when I say that in education, general intelligence and public spirit, the people of this country are not behind their brethren in British India, and I do not see why they should be less fitted to take an active and responsible part in the management of local affairs than the latter. Our experience of the manner in which the existing Committees have performed their duties confirms this view and warrants the hope that the body, when re-constituted in the manner contemplated in the Bill, will carry on the work with increased zeal and efficiency.

I now proceed to deal with the Bill. I do not think I need trouble the Council with any detailed account of the provisions which are fully explained in the Statement of Objects and Reasons. I would therefore confine myself to the more important and distinctive features of the measure.

The Bill is divided into five Chapters.

The first Chapter contains the usual preliminary matter and prescribes the procedure to be adopted when it is intended to declare any local area a town under the Regulation or to alter the limits of an existing town. It also provides (sec. 6) for cancelling a notification declaring any local area to be a town and dissolving the Committee, and for temporarily superseding a Committee. Occasion may very seldom arise for putting this provision into force, but it is obviously expedient to reserve the power against a possible contingency. It will be observed that before extending the Regulation to any local area or modifying the limits of any existing town, the intention to do so has to be duly notified and sufficient time and opportunity given to the inhabitants of such local area or town to represent any objection they may have to the proposed step, and no action will be taken unless it is found necessary in the interests of the inhabitants themselves.

Chapter II deals with the constitution of the Committees, their conduct of business, their servants and their power to enter into contracts. It will be noted that, in its constitution, the Committee under the Bill differs from the corresponding body under the existing Regulation in certain important respects. The minimum proportion of non-official members is raised from $\frac{1}{3}$ to $\frac{1}{2}$, and provision is made for so selecting them as to ensure a proper representation of the urban population. Having regard to the widely varying character and circumstances

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of the towns and the consequent need for proceeding progressively but cautiously and tentatively, it has been deemed inexpedient to embody in the Bill itself details regarding selection. The Council may rest assured that the Rules which will be passed in this behalf will be such as to secure for the Committee the best, the most intelligent and the most representative members of the community, who would take a responsible interest in the management of local affairs. The provision relating to the constitution of the Committee is, it will be observed, so elastic as to admit of its being composed largely of non-official members. It is thus possible to adjust the composition of the Committees to the needs and conditions of the several towns.

The sections laying down the rules for the conduct of business of the Committees are, in the main, those contained in the present Regulation. The modifications made are in conformity with the improved constitution and enlarged functions of the Committees.

Sections 22, 23 and 24 call for some explanation. The first of these sections is an enlargement of section 38 of the present Regulation. It empowers Government to suspend execution of or cancel any resolution or order of the Committee. The reasons for and the circumstances under which the power can be exercised as specified in the section itself furnish at once the justification for the step and the necessary safe-guard against its possible abuse. Sections 23 and 24 enable Government to have any work carried out, otherwise than by the Committee, in cases of emergency or of default on the part of the Committee. These powers are likely to be exercised but very rarely, and then only in the interests of the public. They are intended not to interfere with the free action of the Committees, but to enable Government to guide, counsel and assist them, and the check which Government may exercise is a check not *on* the people but *for* the people.

Sections 25 to 29 deal with officers and servants of the Committees. The duty of fixing the number and salaries of servants is vested in Committees, but the executive control over the servants is vested in the President, subject in both cases to the rules which may be laid down by Government.

Chapter III deals with the powers of Committees and defines and specifies the offences and punishments under the Regulation. Many of the sections are reproductions with slight modifications of the existing Regulation; and such modifications and additions as have been made are, I believe, of a non-contentious character.

Chapter IV, which I am sorry to find has stirred up some bad blood, treats of the Town Improvement Fund. Though section 72 of the existing Regulation contemplates a Town Improvement Fund, no such Fund actually exists, and the Committees have in reality no financial responsibility or control. It is due to the Committees to say that they have endeavoured to make the best of the allotments provided in the State budget; but they smart under the feeling that the means placed at their disposal fall far short of what they honestly conceive to be the need for improvement. Some Committees have attempted to induce the local inhabitants to make voluntary contributions for scavenging and other purposes; but the presence in every town of persons who, inoculated as it were with fatalistic virus, have little knowledge of and less faith in the laws of public hygiene, has rendered all such attempts abortive. Even were the majority of the urban population imbued with a due sense of the influence of sanitary laws on their physical and moral well being, they need the aid of some legal sanction to compass their object and prevent the recalcitrant minority from thwarting them.

I regret that on the occasion of moving for leave to bring forward this Bill, I did not explain fully the scope and object of this Chapter, as I believe that the alarm which this portion of the Bill appears to have created in some quarters is due chiefly to misconception. To tax and to please is indeed not possible. But if any one would take the trouble of carefully examining the provisions he will find that they actually impose no tax whatever. The Bill, so far as this portion of it is concerned, is purely an enabling and not an enacting measure. There is in it no subtle design to add to the State revenue, or to divest the State of its responsibility in the matter of town improvement and sanitation. Unlike the other service heads, the annual allotments under which are increased or cut down according to the varying condition of finance, a statutory prohibition is imposed on Government from applying

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the shears to the Town Improvement grant under any circumstances while, it will be observed, no maximum limit of allotment is fixed or even contemplated. The Council is perhaps aware that in British India, Mysore, and in fact wherever there is municipal institution, the cost of public works, education, medical and other like services is thrown entirely on the towns. In the Mysore State, during the quinquennium ending 31st March 1891, the municipal expenditure per head of the population amounted to Rs. 3-7-1·6, of which about 12 annas, or about 22 per cent alone was on account of conservancy, the rest being outlay on public works, education, medical and other services which under the Bill will be maintained wholly out of the general revenues of the State. If we also bear in mind that in Mysore little or no contribution is made by the State towards the municipal fund, while the Town Improvement Fund under the Bill will mainly consist of such contribution, we can easily see how infinitesimally small the incidence of local imposts will be, even if full effect is given to all the so called taxation provisions. But these provisions, as already pointed out, are only permissive. The Committees constituted on the broader basis contemplated in the Bill may possibly be able, with the existing grants, to keep the ball rolling. In the Quilon memorial just received, it is stated that by judicious economy the real wants of the towns could be met from the existing grants. If this is possible, there will be no need for resorting to taxation. It is only where a Committee, of whom the majority at any rate will be persons who would represent the interests and wishes of the town population, find that for some important purpose such as the establishment of private scavenging service, the Town Improvement Fund at their disposal should be supplemented by local contributions, there will be any need for putting the provisions of this Chapter into force. This aspect of the question cannot be too clearly borne in mind. It will ordinarily be left to the Committee, and, in view of the modified constitution of that body, to the people themselves, to determine not only whether any local contribution has to be levied, but also what amount should be locally collected and for what purposes it is to be appropriated. I am sure that in these matters the non-official members of Committees will form the predominant factor, the function of the official members being chiefly to give them such guidance, counsel and assistance as they may require.

Before proceeding to deal with the sections in detail, I would touch upon one or two considerations urged in the petitions on the Bill.

It is said that the people in this country are poor, that they are already heavily taxed, that what with adverse seasons and high prices the bulk of the population is in a wretched condition, and that any addition to taxation would therefore only deepen their misery. Without stopping to enquire how far the picture drawn represents reality, I would remark that the argument does not affect the proposed action. If you will carefully examine the incidence of general taxation in this country, you will find that it bears most heavily on the cultivating classes, and that the trading and other professional classes who chiefly reside in the towns do not pay their fair share of taxation, though in the capacity to bear the burden they are generally far better circumstanced than their country brethren. The transit and octroi duties which formerly existed, though they were objectionable economically, and were properly abolished, had the effect of balancing the burden on the rural population. If you will scrutinize the items of the proposed local taxation and the exemptions indicated in section 75, you will observe that the poorer classes are altogether excluded, and the burden will fall almost exclusively on the well-to-do classes, some of whom at present enjoy practical immunity from all taxation.

Another argument employed in the petitions is that the general revenues of the State admit of the necessary allotments being made for the towns without imposing on the latter any fresh burden. Granting that this is so, it is a question whether the State surplus could, in fairness to the general tax-payer, be utilized in the manner suggested by the memorialists, or whether a more legitimate course would not be either to use it on some works of public utility or to take steps to afford general relief to those, of whom the agricultural classes form the major portion, who mostly need such relief. The diversion of such surplus for purposes of town conservancy would be to favour Dives at the expense of Lazarus—to accentuate the inequality of taxation between the rural and urban population. Apart from this, which may be regarded by some as an academical objection, we have to consider

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whether without the power to raise local contributions when necessary and the responsibility which such power implies, the Committees would command the confidence so essential in the interests of the institution which it is the main object of the Bill to foster and develop. Power ought not to be divorced from responsibility. Money easily obtained is or is believed to be lightly spent. The fact that a portion of the Town Improvement Fund is collected locally affords a guarantee that it will be spent judiciously. We should not also forget the educative aspect of the proposed scheme, the creation and development of the capacity for self-help among the people.

I shall now briefly deal with the principal sections.

Section 72 defines the Town Improvement Fund. The proviso is important inasmuch as it imposes a statutory obligation on Government to make an annual allotment not less than that of the year in which the Regulation comes into force. At present, as I have already pointed out, it is open to Government to increase or decrease the allotment. The latter power is taken away, but the former remains. The last clause is equally important. It formally vests in the Committee the direction and control of the Fund of which, it should be noted, the major portion will always consist of contributions from the State treasury.

Section 73 provides for the preparation of the annual budget by the Committee. This is a very important function. The Committee has to consider how best to apportion the funds available to the various requirements, and whether in the interests of the town population recourse should be had to any and, if so, what kind of local contribution. With the intimate knowledge which the Committees are expected to possess of the actual wants of the locality and the capacity of the inhabitants to contribute towards meeting those wants, they are not likely to make any hasty or ill-judged proposals; and section 74 contains the necessary corrective against possible deflection from the proper course.

Section 75 indicates the several sources from which the required funds may be locally collected by the Committees. These are, (1) a tax on buildings and lands; (2) a tax on arts, professions and trades; (3) a tax on springed vehicles, animals and cabin boats; (4) a tax on vehicles without springs and vallams; and (5) tolls on vehicles &c., entering the towns. In every case the maximum rate leviable is half of what obtains in British India. The Council is aware that a Bill is now before the Madras Legislative Council to raise the vehicle and animal taxes by 50 per cent. The maximum rates under the Bill will thus be ⅔ of the rates in the Madras City. It is noteworthy that the Madras Bill has been brought forward on the recommendation of the Municipal Commissioners—the elected representatives of the citizens of Madras.

In reference to this section I should observe that, though it specifies several items of taxation, it is not to be understood that all or even two or three of them need be had recourse to at the same time and place. When the necessity for additional funds in any town has become imperative, it is for the Committee to decide, with reference to the conditions and circumstances of the town, which of the prescribed methods should be adopted. The items of taxation entered in the section are those usually adopted in municipalities in British India and Mysore. If, however, the Council considers that any one or more of the items specified are unsuited to the conditions of this country and others less objectionable could be substituted, I do not think Government will have any serious objection to such a course. These are matters of detail which the Select Committee to which, if the introduction of the Bill is permitted, I propose to refer it, may have to consider. I would, with your permission, just indicate one or two points which I think should receive the anxious consideration of the Committee :—

Tax on lands and buildings.—The Council is aware that the lands in the towns, including the sites on which buildings are erected have been, with some exceptions, fully assessed to the public revenue. To impose an additional tax will be a source of real hardship. I think it, therefore, just that allowance should be made for the assessment already levied on these properties. It is an undeniable fact that in this country a man's dwelling house is no index of his means. The natives of this country do not regard dwelling houses as an investment and consequently a source of income. Until recently, it was cosidered *infra dignitatem* to let one's house.

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Many families which were once in affluent circumstances but have since become impoverished, retain their Tarwad house and cling to it, though it is quite out of proportion to their means. They would not let it, much less part with it. However much we may deplore the subordination of wisdom to sentiment, the unwillingness to adapt themselves to altered conditions, and the morbid desire to appear better than they really are, which characterise these people, the fact remains that a taxation of such houses according to the annual rental abstractly determined will be ruinous to the owners, and would run counter to the fundamental principle of taxing every man, as far as possible, according to his means.

Tax on animals under clause (3).—Bullocks and buffaloes are included in the term animals. Every one of our towns is more or less a *rus* in *urbi*. Not a few of the town residents belong to the cultivating classes, and they keep bullocks and buffaloes for agricultural purposes. A tax on such animals would operate as an additional burden on the cultivating classes. It is a question whether such animals should not be excluded from taxation.

These and other points will have to be and I am sure will be carefully considered by the Select Committee. All that the Council has to consider at this stage is whether some provision making it competent to the Committees to raise money whenever, in the interests of the local inhabitants they find it absolutely necessary to do so, is not needed. Such a provision, I should think, is desirable in view of the fact that a spirit ofvoluntary combination for useful public purposes is by no means a pronounced characteristic of the masses in this country.

Section 78 deals with house-scavenging and I take it that it is not a contentious provision.

Section 77 which enables Government under certain circumstances to order the levy of taxes and tolls, calls for some explanation. With Committees composed of intelligent and public-spirited men, it will ordinarily be unnecessary for Government to interfere. But the responsibilities of Government are obviously greater than those of the Committees. If a Committee neglects to carry out a work which, in the interests of the local inhabitants and other important considerations, it is necessary to execute, there are three courses open to Government: (1) to let matters alone; (2) to carry out the work entirely at Government cost; and (3) to carry out the work and charge the cost to the Town Improvement Fund. The first course is obviously not possible in the discharge of the paramount duty of Government. The second course is objectionable as it would be a premium on neglect. The third then is the only course open, compatibly with the interests of the towns and the dignity of Government. I need hardly say that the power will very seldom be exercised and then only in the interests and for the welfare of the people.

The only other section in this Chapter which calls for special notice is section 87, which limits the application of the fund raised under this Chapter to sanitary and conservancy purposes. This, I need hardly observe, is a very important provision.

The last Chapter deals with miscellaneous matters. All the sections under this Chapter, except sections 109 and 117 are reproductions of the provisions of the present Regulation with very little modification. Section 109 contains an enabling provision to empower the Committee or President to compound offences. This is taken from the Punjab Municipal Act, and would, if worked judiciously "prevent many prosecutions of a trivial character which otherwise could not be avoided from being instituted or proceeded with to a final judgment." The principle of permitting certain offences to be compounded is not a new one. Under the Code of Criminal Procedure private persons are allowed to compound offences. The Forest Regulation empowers certain Forest officers to compound offences, and experience shows that the provision is a useful one. Section 117 provides for the appointment of a Vice-President. The Vice-President may be selected from official or non-official members. As the President is usually the District Officer, he may not always find sufficient time to attend to the growing work of the Committees. Under the proposed measure, the executive work of the President will not be inconsiderable and the appointment of a Vice-President may become necessary in the interests of efficiency.

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I think I need not trouble the Council with any remarks on the other provisions of the Bill. I sincerely hope that the Council and the intelligent public will see that the Bill confers upon the town population substantial rights which are well worth the possible little sacrifice they involve. Self-sacrifice, self-reliance and self-help are virtues no less essential in communities than in individuals, and the institution which the proposed measure aims at establishing is the best instrument for developing these qualities. It is not alone the taxation provisions, but almost every provision of the Bill involves questions, which in the words of Ruskin "need for their right solution one positive and one negative answer like an equation of the second degree." From the standpoint of the individual they have to be dealt with in a manner which "involves the exact negation of that which would be called for in the interests of the community." The interests of the individual should be subordinated to and controlled by the larger interests of the public; and if society is not to be stationary, its members must be prepared to some extent to subordinate the interests of the present to the interests of the future. I trust that the public will view the measure in this spirit. I am glad to find that the Town Improvement Committees whose opinions have been invited by Government have expressed themselves in favor of the general principles of the Bill.

I beg to move under Rule 33 that the Bill be read in Council and that its principle be affirmed.

Mr. Prince.—I beg to second the introduction of the Bill. I do not think I need say much after what the learned introducer of the Bill has said, both in his speech to-day and in the Statement of Objects and Reasons attached to the Bill. It seems to me that the only objection, so far as I am aware, is to that part of the Bill which gives the Committees the power of raising, should they think fit, a small tax, to enable them to carry out local improvements. It must be taken that the members of the several Committees though appointed by Government, to a great extent, represent the people. It is for the members of the Committee who would be affected by the new Bill to say whether it is necessary to raise funds or not. I perfectly agree with what my friend has said about the need for municipal taxation. This I would call taxation on luxuries. If the people in towns require luxuries, they must pay for them. In England, France, Germany and other civilised countries, we find the heaviest taxes put on luxuries. There is, for instance, the lighting of towns. It would be hard to make the general tax-payer pay for the lighting, the benefits of which are enjoyed by the residents of the towns. Since the introduction of what I would call Municipalities in the larger towns of Travancore, the Government have been giving much larger sums for expenditure on sanitation and other necessary improvements than what they previously used to spend. This is hard upon the general tax-payer, and it is tying the hands of Government from attending to the wants of other parts of the country. Another thing to be remembered is that in towns, the population is larger and sanitary wants are greater than in rural parts. A larger amount of money is required to meet those wants. The question is, who should pay for them? Surely the people who get larger incomes and to whom Government give special privileges over the rural population for their comfort and convenience. They are required to provide for good sanitation, not for the benefit of the Government, not for the benefit of the general public outside, but for their own protection from diseases and to provide themselves with good water, light and other conveniences. It seems to me that a good many people who have raised objections to this Bill have done so without understanding what the Bill intends to do for them. The Bill is meant for the good of all. It relieves the general tax-payer inasmuch as his contribution towards the State revenues is not diverted to purely local purposes. Though I am a public officer, I do not speak from that standpoint. I think the Bill is a good Bill and a very necessary one too. It has been pointed out to the Council by the mover that the measures for the general welfare contemplated by the Bill have been in force in British India for over 200 years, but like Oliver Twist they cry for more. In every one of the towns in Travancore in which the Towns Improvement Regulation has been in force, viz., in Alleppey, Kottayam, Nagercoil, Trivandrum and Quilon, vast improvements are still necessary, and these improvements which would be but a slight burden on the rich would be a great boon to the poor. I would, before concluding, refer to sections 81 and 82 which give to Government large powers in certain cases,

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so that they could see that the poorer classes are not over-burdened, and to section 87 which provides that the funds raised should not be diverted to any purpose other than that of the conservancy of the town. I have not the slightest doubt that the representatives of the people who would be on the several Committees will fully carry out the benevolent object of the Bill. I don't think I need say more. I have much pleasure in strongly supporting the Bill.

Mr. Ramier.—This Bill before us, every section of it contains an important principle. As has been explained by the learned mover so lucidly, you will find in each of these provisions points for discussion. I can't say that that discussion can only be one-sided. I do not think it is called for, to discuss these provisions at this stage or ask the Council to pronounce any definite views on them. They are matters for the Select Committee in whose hands the Bill will be threshed out and when the collective wisdom of the Select Committee is reported to the Council, it will be for the members then to see if there is any principle involved in any particular section requiring any amendment or discussion, and propose such motions as they deem fit in reference to them. Taking the province of the Council at this stage to be thus limited, I shall proceed to make a few observations on the general scope of the Bill.

Whenever any Bill is introduced, the first point for consideration is whether it is necessary. The Town Improvement Regulation of 1069 has now been in force for upwards of five years, and it is an undoubted fact that the several Committees have felt the necessity for amendments in various points. We have in this Council 3 representatives of the Town Improvement Committees who will testify to such necessity. I believe that various amendments have been, from time to time, suggested to Government by the several Committees, and I am glad to find that, as far as those of the Quilon Committee, of which I am a member, are concerned, several of them have been adopted in the Bill. I submit, then, that there can be no two opinions on the point that we require fresh legislation on the subject of the Town Improvement Regulation.

As regards the various provisions introduced in this Bill as adding to or improving upon the present Regulation, I think they may be safely left to the Select Committee stage for consideration. But there are two provisions contained in the Bill which are new, and which I cannot pass over without making a few remarks. One of these provisions relates to the constitution of the Committee, and the other to taxation for the purpose of the Town Improvement Fund. The learned mover has sufficiently indicated to us that the Committees formed under the present Bill will fully represent the various interests of the community. I am indeed thankful to the learned mover of the Bill and to the Government for the generosity with which they have come forward to take the people into their confidence. Such confidence has been taken elsewhere long ago as the mover himself has pointed out, and if it was here deferred until now, it was probably not because Government was unwilling to do so, but the demand was not so much felt before this. In reference to this matter, the present Bill only takes power for Government to introduce the elective system by rules to be framed by them. This, in its nature, is only optional. I would prefer, instead of so leaving it to Government, to embody in the Regulation itself the necessary provisions for selecting—I would rather prefer the word electing—the representatives of the people, especially as you know the learned mover would lay much stress upon this subject of the constitution of the Committee as supporting his action for introducing the taxation provisions. Let us have election first, and let us know in what form and under what conditions it is to be given us. What the Government proposes to do after the Bill is passed, I think, can be done now. In so doing, the Government will have the satisfaction of having the views of the Council on a point which is, in no way, of secondary importance. The people may have also the satisfaction of knowing as to who would be the persons that will come forward to touch their pocket for the purposes of the Town Improvement Fund. I do not think there could be any insuperable difficulty in indicating in the Bill itself, I do not mean to say the details which may of course be regulated by rules, the main provisions in reference to electing the members. I am aware that the provision in the Bill on this subject is after the model of the provision in the Legislative Council Regulation as regards the selection of members, which itself is after the provisions

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of the Parliamentary statute dealing with the constitution of the British Indian Legislative Councils. In my opinion, the analogy between the two *i. e.* the Legislative Council Regulation and this Bill, is not a sound one. For the purpose of the Legislative Council, you can't say that there are definite constituencies, whereas in the case of Town Improvement Committees, if we are to have election, we know from where the voters have to come. All that we have to do is, instead of making it optional with Government to introduce election, to make it obligatory by a statutory provision that the Committee must consist of a certain portion of elected members. Declare the qualifications of the voters and the necessary conditions for the election. I hold very strong views in this matter. It is not because I feel any want of confidence in the Government taking the necessary measures for introducing election. There is no question of confidence here. I feel strongly the measure will not be complete unless there is some clear indication in the Bill itself as to how the Committee will be constituted. There are other points connected with this matter, such as the number, the proportion of the officials to the non-officials, and all these will have to be carefully considered by the Select Committee. I fully hope the suggestions I have thrown out will meet with due consideration in the hands of the mover and of the members of the Select Committee. It will be for them to decide whether the main clauses in reference to the elective principle are not to be embodied in the Bill.

Coming to the second point, I regret to say that there has been a great deal of misconception as regards the true scope and objects of the measure, on the part of those who have thought it necessary to oppose the Bill. From the various representations made on this subject as seen from the papers circulated to us, the memorialists seem not to have understood what the real object of this taxation is, and what is its scope, whom all it will affect, and who it is that would put these provisions in motion. When they really understand these points, I think there will be hardly any opposition to this measure. The way to approach this question appears to me to be a very simple one. For the purpose of working the conservancy and sanitation of the towns, the Government is now giving certain grants. They do not propose to withhold it in future. They promise to continue it as before. The first question is, do we want more money? I thought this question was not capable of two answers. I have been connected with one of the Committees, Quilon, from the very beginning of its organisation. I know how much we have always felt the want of sufficient funds for carrying out what I may call the necessity, and not the luxury, of preserving the sanitation and conservancy of our town. I know also that similarly the other Committees have felt the want of funds. As far as my town is concerned, I will give you an illustration, and you will then understand how necessary it is to increase the Town Improvement Fund. We, the Quilon Committee, resolved that it was absolutely necessary to remove the night-soil from the very thickly populated portions of the town, such as Chinnakadai. For this purpose, we wanted two night-soil carts and the necessary labour to work them. We had no funds. For more than two years we have been pressing on Government to give us the funds, but in vain. I do not accuse the Government. They have to see their ways and means. All that I say in this connection is, that want of funds is felt. Don't you think, that the city fathers will not be doing their duty, in not giving their attention to the removal of this filth especially at times when cholera, small-pox and similar diseases threaten you at your face. But what are they to do? Government will not give the money, nor will the people, of their own accord. They will only be ready to accuse the city fathers for having done nothing in the matter. I would not have detained you so long on this point, but I was compelled to do so from a memorial put into my hands just now by the Secretary. This appears to be a memorial adopted at a meeting in Quilon itself, from where I come. I confess that though I was there, I had no notice of the meeting, else I should have known something of this memorial before. This memorial points out that the grants that are now made by Government towards the Town Improvement Fund are sufficient for actual requirements, if properly utilised. I am very sorry to say that this statement, at any rate as far as Quilon is concerned, is far from correct. And the memorialists themselves, I feel no doubt, if they are fully informed of the real facts of the case, will be prepared to see the mistake. Thus, Sir, seeing more money is wanted, the next question is, where are we to find it from? In this connection, my friend Mr. Prince has raised a very important issue. He says, and I know there are others also who think with him, that for the purposes

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of the conservancy and sanitation of towns, or for that matter for all the improvements of the towns, including road making and supply of water, the funds should be raised by local taxation *i. e.* within the town. He brings in the analogy of England, France and Germany, and says that the funds from the general treasury ought not to be utilised for this purpose, and that it would be unfair to the general taxpayer. Well, Sir, I am sorry I cannot agree to this proposition. In my humble opinion, the analogy is mischievous and not apt. Within our State, I cannot conceive the distinction between imperial and local purposes and imperial and local finances. I think such considerations do not apply here. Ours is at once local and imperial. These theories apart, what are the facts of the case? Who are those that are benefited by the improvements in the towns—sanitation, conservancy and all? Are they only those that actually reside within them? And even in that case, are the benefits enjoyed by them confined to their own account or to the account of outsiders as well? I daresay you cannot have a High Court, a Huzur Cutcherry, a general Hospital and such kindred institutions in Parur, Meenachil, Shenkottah and Cape Comorin. The whole country have to resort to the Capital for these institutions. For the maintenance of these institutions, you want a certain number of people to reside therein. Can you say, then, that the benefits enjoyed in the towns are not enjoyed directly or indirectly by the people of the whole country? What applies to Trivandrum will also apply to other towns more or less. The benefits in each town are really enjoyed by the people in each District. The merchant, the vakil, and the officers that reside within the town, and who may be said to enjoy those benefits directly, cannot be said to reside there solely for the sake of the residents of the town. If there was an overflowing treasury, as our friends of Kottar would have us believe in their memorial, I for one could not see the sin of Government in utilising the resources for the purpose of town improvement, in which case, no doubt, the issue raised will have to be decided. But it seems to me, in the view I take as to the necessity for fresh taxation, there is no necessity for pursuing this question further. As the mover has pointed out in his speech as well as in the Objects and Reasons, the Government are not, with due regard to all their other concerns, in a position to give the Committees more funds than what they are now giving from the general treasury. It is rather amusing to find in the several memorials from the south, references to the low salaries of Tahsildars and others in by-gone days and to the increased emoluments they now enjoy, the batta, mileage &c., drawn by the superior officers, indicating to them as the source where pruning is necessary, for finding funds for town improvement purposes. I daresay they are not very serious. I have been trying my best, non-official as I am, to see if there is anything in the several memorials upon which the taxation clauses in the Bill can be really opposed, and I confess to my inability to find any. Thus, then, if you want money and if the general treasury cannot find it, you have to find the means for getting it. I need hardly say voluntary payments are not possible. We have to resort to taxation. The only question is, in what form we should do it. Here, I must congratulate the mover on his having hit upon, in my opinion; the most proper course and the least harmful one. The taxes proposed are of 5 kinds: (1) on buildings and lands within the town, (2) on animals and vehicles within it, (3) on arts and professions, (4) tolls, and (5) license fees. For the purposes we are at, these appear to me the proper mode of getting the money. They directly tax the residents within the town, indirectly people outside. A trader paying his professional tax will, of course, see to the profit he makes, and that profit comes not from the residents of the town alone but from outsiders as well. What I said of the merchant may be said of any other profession. So much, then, for the general scope of the taxation clauses. As regards the details, of course there are various points that require very careful consideration, in a few of which the mover himself has anticipated me, for instance, the case of lands paying assessment and animals for agricultural purposes, which require exemption from taxation. I feel sure that all such points will receive careful consideration in the hands of the Select Committee. But there are two or three points involving important principles, in connection with this matter, which I feel compelled to lay before you. Quite rightly indeed, the Bill provides that the initiative for taxing must be taken by the respective Committees themselves. I would add that no resolution in this behalf should be valid unless at least a majority of the non-officials in the Committee should vote for the same. The object of this principle is, I hope, obvious. This provision will practically give the initiative of the taxation in the hands of the people them-

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selves. Another point is, I would remove that section 77 which provides for Government directing taxation without reference to the Committee at all. This provision, I submit, is hardly necessary. The retaining of this provision will only create a fear on the part of the people. I have no doubt there will be no occasion at all for exercising that power. Should a necessity arise, it cannot be difficult to devise means at the time. Knowing as we do, however much the introducing of fresh taxation may be defensible, still the idea of a fresh tax is so distasteful to our people, I think the Government would be using only a wise discretion in not insisting on the retention of this provision. And the last point I wish to draw your attention to is, that the Bill in this Chapter provides that the rules are all to be made by Government, and it is left to the Committee to work them. I would leave it to the Committees to frame the rules, giving of course to Government the power of vetoing. Here again, I need hardly tell you, Sir, that it is not from any feeling of distrust in Government that I make this observation. I think it will be granted that the Committee which will consist of responsible officials and the representatives of the people will be in a better position to know the needs in this direction, and they may be safely entrusted with the making of the necessary rules, subject, of course, to the control of Government. I feel confident that if the suggestions that I have made can be conceded, there is nothing in the taxation Chapter which need frighten or alarm the people. I thank you, Sir, for the kindness with which you allowed me to engage the time of the Council so long, and you, Gentlemen, for the patience with which you heard me. I now resume my seat, offering once more my thanks to Government for the boon Government intend to confer on the people.

Mr. Kuruvila.—The leading principles involved in the Bill are, I think, (1) the responsibility of Municipal inhabitants to pay Municipal taxes, to supplement the funds available from the general revenues of the State for the conservancy and improvement of their Municipalities, and (2) the admission of the tax-payers to a participation in the administration of Municipal funds, by their being invested with the privilege of selecting some of the members of the Municipal Committees.

Though there is every scope for difference of opinion as regards the manner in which these principles are applied in practice, I think that in the abstract the combination of responsibility with power as set forth in the Bill, satisfies the healthy and normal aspirations of developing personality in individuals, and is in keeping with the methods adopted among the most advanced nations to train individuals in self-government and to enable them to appropriate in corporate life the highest privileges destined for man both in the material and in the moral sphere of his development.

Confining our attention to the material aspect, we are forced to observe that the growing congestion in our towns, the urban habits that are being engrafted on their crowding inhabitants, their increasing facilities of communication and commerce with populous foreign centres, the new civilized industries that are being introduced into our sea-ports, these happy signs of advancing material prosperity entail new duties as to conservancy and sanitation, duties that must be scrupulously fulfilled, if these wealth-giving conditions are to be efficiently maintained, and if that for which wealth exists, viz., health, is to be preserved for the individual and for the community.

It is natural that in the enthusiasm of the worship of wealth, many of its zealous votaries would forget themselves and be blind to the requirements of conservancy and sanitation; and it behoves the Government to take steps for protecting the public health, primarily by enlisting the co-operation of the enlightened section of each locality, and in cases where such help is not available, by the instrumentality of its own executive.

From the experience gained during the working of Regulation II of 1069, which had been framed on this principle, it has been found that the concentration of sanitary effort in specific localities to meet their necessities demands outlays for which the general revenues of the State could not justly allot funds in full, with due regard to the generally acknowledged principles of financial administration. It is, therefore, proposed that the Legislature should help the towns by providing a source of income in the form of local taxes, from which the funds required over and above the grant from the general revenues may be drawn, as occasion arises. The principle involved in

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this proposal is, I think, sound and proper, although some of those who have been unaccustomed to such a cess, may feel aggrieved at the prospect of a new burden.

The conveniences for the acquisition and protection of wealth, commanded by those who live in towns, would I think, more than counter-balance the special contribution that they, as distinct from the rural population, would be called upon to make, under the several possible methods indicated in Chapter IV of the Bill. The establishment of the Civil and Criminal Courts, Police, Revenue and Registration Cutcherries, Hospitals, Schools, Anchal offices, Markets &c., in their midst, also gives the urban population marked advantages over the rural population in the ever-recurring concerns of social life, and should compensate them for any extra burden found necessary to maintain the conditions which brought these institutions there. Without ignoring the natural advantages of situation which, no doubt, originally attracted enterprising people to these towns, we have also to remember that one of the most important factors in the prosperity of a town is the magnitude of its population, and that if any town is now found hopelessly unhealthy for human occupation, the population would be scared away and that the value of property and the profits of merchandise and industries would be seriously reduced by the consequent emigration and depopulation.

I am, therefore, of opinion that enlightened self-interest would gladly accept municipal taxation, if there is positive assurance that the funds will be properly expended for the conservancy and sanitation of the Municipalities. Section 87 of the Bill gives this assurance as regards the purposes for which the funds raised will be utilised. The close vigilance and the wise frugality with which the expenditure has to be controlled have, I find, been also secured by the best possible safe-guard, next to the sympathy and wisdom of the the central Government, viz., by giving the tax-payers a voice in the selection of the local authorities, who are expected, as a rule, to take the initiative in determining the works to be undertaken, the extent of funds required, and the manner in which and the rate at which the unavoidable local contribution is to be made. Sections 80, 81 and 82 provide for contingencies, in which the pressure of any tax may be found to be abnormal and deserving of special treatment by abolition, reduction, exemption or suspension. Sections 11, 22, 23 and 24 provide for other contingencies in which the interference of Government may be desirable in the exercise of its sympathy and experienced wisdom. Considering the varying resources of our towns as regards enlightened public spirit, and the chances of apathy or ignorance in the voters, all these provisions appear to be wholesome in the general effect, although some of them modify the ideal independence of the Committees. I am, therefore, of opinion that the main principles of the Bill as above set forth may be affirmed.

But in thus supporting the motion before the Council, I think it my duty to submit, at the same time, that I expect certain modifications in the manner in which the Bill proposes to apply these principles.

The strength of the quorum proposed in section 14, viz., 4, should, I think, be increased to half the number of members as in the case of this Council. The executive character of the Committee is practically subordinate to its deliberative character, and I believe there are ample safe-guards in the Bill to remedy any unwieldiness that may be pleaded in behalf of the limited quorum.

As regards the sections about officers and servants, I think that while the President should have the powers given him in sections 26 and 28, the Committee, as a body, should also be invested with the power of at least punishing Municipal servants. As the Committee is deprived of the power of appointment, to enable the President to have a free hand in the selection of Municipal servants, the power of the Committee to control the actions of the servants would not, I believe, hamper the President, but would, on the other hand, enhance the usefulness of the members of the Committee, by enabling them to draw the attention of the President to any remissness on the part of Municipal servants.

In the provisions under section 36, regarding existing buildings with inflammable materials, I think it desirable to confine the powers of demolition to temporary structures of limited value, and to lengthen the period fixed for the Municipality to start work.

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As to the tax on buildings and lands, I am happy to understand that the mover proposes to deduct the existing land tax from the amount fixed under section 75, (1). I desire relief in two other directions also, viz. (1) by raising the annual value of exempted properties to at least 25 or 30 Rs., and (2) by reducing the rate of taxation on landed property to the percentage fixed for the tax on professions &c., under Schedule A.

As regards the tax on animals under section 75, (3), and on carts and valloms under section 75, (4), I think the exemption should extend also to animals, carts and valloms used for agricultural purposes and valloms below 15 ft. in length.

As regards tolls, I think that in the material conditions of our towns and of those who resort to them, it is desirable to give up this possible source of revenue altogether. The provision for compounding for exemption is not, I think, in itself sufficient to remove the evils that would follow the impost. The general revenues of some of our towns may, I fear, be affected by the diversion of trade that it may bring about. The expensive supervision required to avoid peculation in collection and the frequent hardship consequent on tolls as well as the fact that the incidence would not be confined either to the well-to-do classes or to those who do not contribute to the expenses of the State, should all dissuade us from giving the Municipalities the power to throw this oppressive tax on a people who are, as yet, entirely unaccustomed to any Municipal taxation.

I am also of opinion that in consideration of the general Municipal tax imposed under section 75, it is advisable to forego the special taxes proposed under section 78 for house-scavenging and under section 85 for licenses.

Mr. Kochukrishna Marar.—After the very exhaustive and lucid speech of the member in charge of the Bill and the observations made by my other friends, I do not consider it necessary for me to make any long speech which must necessarily cover much of the ground that has been already travelled over. The necessity for the Bill has been clearly made out and the several objections raised to it have been satisfactorily answered. I shall, therefore, content myself with simply recording my vote in favour of the Bill. I would, however, add one observation with respect to the people who are to be affected by it. From the memorials submitted to the Council, I find there appears to be some misapprehension on the part of the people that the Bill is intended to reach not so much the monied classes, the public servants, lawyers &c., of whom we have plenty in our towns and whose number is increasing, as the poorer classes. As matters at present stand, the class to which I myself belong does not pay anything at all in return for the comforts and advantages we enjoy. That these people should be permitted to enjoy the undeserved immunity from the tax collector is an anomaly which must be removed, and the present Bill seeks to remove it. On that ground and nothing else, do I welcome the present Bill. Before I sit down, I wish to observe that I made these remarks, as I thought they would come with good grace from one who is in the enjoyment of this undeserved immunity.

Mr. Maltby read, with the permission of the Council, some correspondence he had with the Mahomedan merchants of Alleppey about the Bill, and expressed his full concurrence with the principle of the Bill.

Mr. Rajaram Row.—The Bill before us contains provisions which, in a greater or smaller degree, involve questions of principle, but after all that has been so ably said by the members who have preceded me, I do not think it necessary or right that I should detain the Council with any lengthy observations or remarks on the various provisions. The Select Committee which, I presume, will be appointed to sit on the Bill, will deal with its details, but at this stage we have to consider only its main principle, and I consider that principle to consist in the introduction of a provision for the levy of municipal taxation. I am glad to find that the members who have preceded me have all approved of the necessity for such taxation. But in regard to the principle on which that necessity has been admitted, there has been a difference of opinion. The member in charge of the Bill has explained that the necessity for taxation has arisen not because of the want of funds or of the unwillingness of Government to make the necessary allotments for the proper sanitation and conservancy of our towns, but because in every town, it is but just and fair, whether Government gives funds or not, that the people should find the means necessary to meet purely local

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wants. On the other hand, my friend Mr. Ramier, I believe, thinks that because the Government is unable to give the Town Committees sufficient funds, local taxation has become necessary. To my mind, there is a vast difference in principle between these divergent views. I give my vote for the measure solely on the ground put forward by the mover. The spirit of self-help which it will create and the sense of responsibility which the representatives of the people would feel in the administration of local affairs, are indeed the strongest arguments in favor of the Bill.

Talking about the capability of Government to give funds, I wish to say a word about the reference made to the present state of the finances and to the growing needs to meet which they have to be set apart. I think my friend, the mover, simply referred to it incidentally. From the tenor of some of the memorials received, it is evident that, in some minds, the Bill before us is connected with the present financial position of Government and even attributed to it. This, I think, is a misconception of facts. The idea of introducing municipal taxation was, I believe, discussed in this Council, though I was not a member of it at the time, when the first Town Improvement Bill, which became law as Regulation II of 1069, was considered and was for some reason given up. The present measure itself was, I believe, taken in hand long before the accounts of last year were written up. The financial aspect of the latter has, therefore, nothing to do with this Bill. With these remarks, I support the Bill.

Mr. V. Nagam Aiya spoke to the following effect:—

After the several speeches which have, I fear, already taxed your patience, it will be a comfort to you to know that I am not to detain you more than two or three minutes. I will begin by saying that the Council will see no objection in affirming the principle of this Bill, for the Bill is clearly intended to protect the health and safety of the population, two of the most essential functions of every well-organised Government. Whatever differences there may be with regard to the details or the elaboration of the Bill, it will be admitted that these two important ends are intended to be attained by it.

So far as I have endeavoured to understand the petitions presented to this Council, I gather that the objections are not aimed at any of the measures for the health or safety of the inhabitants, but only as to their incapacity for paying the taxes incidental to their being carried out. The unpopularity, evidently, is with regard to one Chapter of the Bill, namely, Chapter IV, that which deals with the rates and mode of taxation. I have no doubt the Select Committee will so modify certain sections of the Bill, say, sections 76 and 77, as to make the measure popular, by confining themselves at first to the absolute necessities of the health and safety of the civic population and gradually extending the boon to what I should consider the lesser necessities, or luxuries among the necessities. For instance, I beg to point out that section 78 is an absolute necessity, wherever we have a congregation of houses as in Brahmin streets. I should think very ill of them who will object to so necessary a requirement as the thorough scavenging of houses. You all know that Government intends this Bill for the comfort of its subject population and not for the aggrandizement of its own revenues, for whatever revenue is secured under this Bill, is intended solely for the improvement of the towns. Thus, it would be clear that Government act only in the interests of the well-being of their subjects. I was, therefore, surprised with a remark which somebody made in a recent meeting at Trivandrum for protesting against this Bill, to the effect that the official members take no interest in the people. I, therefore, assure that meeting that we, official members, are as much interested in His Highness' subjects as they themselves can be, for whatever privileges they expect to enjoy or whatever hardships they fear will fall upon them, will equally be participated in by ourselves. Let me here remind them that we are not only officials, but citizens too. The so-called distinction which they want to make out between officials and subjects is a myth. What will make the Bill popular will undoubtedly suggest itself to the Council as we proceed later on. To begin with, I would suggest, minimise the number of taxes and make the Committee who ought to take the *initiative* in the imposition of the new taxes as *representative* as possible, Government reserving to itself, of course, the right of veto. The opposition to the Bill will then disappear. With these remarks I join in affirming the principle of the Bill.

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President.—It is gratifying to find that there is an unanimity of opinion in the Council in regard to the principle of this Bill. The several provisions in it will, of course, have to be carefully considered in Select Committee. I wish to make a few general observations on the policy of the measure, especially as there has been a good deal of misapprehension on the subject. But before doing so, I would refer to one or two points mentioned by Mr. Ramier. He said that some of the rules which, under the Bill, the Government is empowered to frame should find a place in the Bill itself. In the British Acts, power is generally taken to frame rules for the practical working of the law and we have only adopted the same course here. The reason for this is that, when embodied in the Bill itself, the rules are likely to become stereotyped, and when found unsuited to altered conditions they cannot be modified without an appeal to the Legislative Council. Another point on which Mr. Ramier laid some stress is section 77 of the Bill, which empowers Government to direct the levy of taxes in exceptional cases. This power will, of course, be very rarely used but the provision is nevertheless necessary, to enable Government to introduce sanitary reforms when, under pressure of international arrangements, *e.g.* the Venice Convention, they feel bound as a member of the commonwealth of commerce, to do so, and the Committee neglects or refuses to take the necessary steps. I make these observations not with a view to prevent the consideration of the objections urged by Mr. Ramier, but simply to indicate the necessity for the provision.

The clauses in the Bill relating to the levying of rates for purposes of town improvement have, as may naturally be expected, given rise to hostile criticism in some quarters. The opponents of the measure have been hard upon Mr. Thanu Pillai for introducing the Bill with these clauses. I think it right to announce at this stage, that the idea of the imposition of rates for local sanitation originated from me. While taking full responsibility for this unwelcome portion of the Bill, I may assure the Council and the public that my mind is fully open to receive and consider sympathetically any suggestions that may be offered on this and other portions of the Bill. None seems to question the necessity for sanitary reforms in the large and populous towns for the preservation and promotion of public health. With the discoveries of science and the progress of knowledge, the number of these reforms is increasing and will increase. Funds granted out of the general revenues of the kingdom being found inadequate to meet all the legitimate demands, it was thought desirable to supplement the State grant with local rates.

The imposition of a new cess is always unpopular, whatever may be its amount and object. I need hardly say that no Government would like to incur unpopularity if, consistently with its duty to its subjects, it could avoid it. Ancient Governments looked upon epidemics as divine visitations and did not consider themselves bound to take measures to arrest their course. But the conviction of modern Governments is that they can be controlled by sanitary measures. These measures demand additional funds. The anxiety of His Highness' Government to make the rates as light as possible could be seen from the rates themselves and the numerous limitations to which their imposition is subjected. These rates bear the strongest analogy to voluntary contributions made to provide for the convenience and comfort of contributors. To call them a tax is a misnomer, for they could not be spent out of the town in which they are levied or for purposes other than sanitary reforms, and their administration will virtually be in the hands of local bodies consisting of would-be rate-payers. I repeat the assurance given in the Bill, that His Highness' Government has not the slightest intention of using any portion of these rates for purposes other than the improvement of the towns in which they may be levied, or of withdrawing or reducing the grants already made out of the State revenues.

During my late tours, I had the opportunity of discussing this question with the members of the Town Improvement Committees of Nagercoil, Quilon, Alleppey and Kottayam and with several other leading citizens. They all approved of the principle of the Bill.

The Select Committee to whom the Bill will be referred, will consist of gentlemen fully conversant with the manners, customs and feelings of the people, and devoted to the public weal. They will not fail to scrutinize every word of the several clauses, and introduce such amendments as would make the Bill acceptable to the public.

Mr. Thanu Pillai.—The Council having unanimously affirmed the principle of the Bill, I beg to propose that it be referred to a Select Committee consisting of Messrs. Rajaram Row, Ramier, Kuruvila and the Mover, to report within four months.

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Seconded by Mr. Prince.

Carried.

CRIMINAL PROCEDURE CODE AMENDMENT BILL.

Mr. Thanu Pillai.—This Bill is a very short one and has been published in the Gazette under Rule 32. It consists of but two amendments to the Code of Criminal Procedure, which may well be taken up and finally considered at this meeting. Such a course seems desirable, in this instance, in view of the fact that the publication of the official edition, which it is proposed to issue, of the Criminal Procedure Code, with the numerous amendments introduced by Regulation II of 1074, is delayed on account of the few amendments indicated in the present Bill, which, if passed, the public will have the full amended Code in a convenient form. I beg, therefore, to move that Rules 33, 45 and 50 be suspended by the Council.

The Council having accordingly suspended the Rules, Mr. Thanu Pillai introduced the Bill and in doing so observed:—

I think it is hardly necessary for me to make any speech in regard to this Bill as the Statement of Objects and Reasons contains all I have to say. The first section contains a limitation for starting prosecutions for offences under section 182 of our Penal Code. It is a special offence created by statute and consists in the disobedience of the orders of Government regarding the creation and use of places of public worship and the conduct of processions. The principle of prescribing a period of limitation for criminal proceedings for certain offences is admitted in our Limitation Regulation, and I do not think there need be any objection to a similar provision in regard to the offence above mentioned. I would propose a slight verbal modification in the wording of the proposed section:—'No prosecution for an offence punishable under section 182 of the Penal Code shall be instituted after six months from the date of the offence.' The amendment proposed in section 2 follows from the omission in our Penal Code of sections 3 and 4 of the Indian Penal Code.

I beg to propose that both the amendments be adopted.

Seconded by Mr. Prince.

Carried.

Mr. Thanu Pillai.—Rule 50 having been already suspended by the Council, I beg to move that the Bill be passed.

The motion was put and agreed to.

GUARDIAN AND WARDS BILL.

Mr. Kochukrishna Marar.—In pursuance of the permission granted me at the meeting of the Council held on the 3rd December last, I beg to introduce the Bill, but as it has not been sufficiently long before the public, I beg to propose that the discussion of the principle be postponed to the next ordinary meeting of the Council.

The motion was put and agreed to.

ABKARI REGULATION AMENDMENT BILL.

Mr. Thanu Pillai.—This Bill was considered by the Council on the 3rd December last, but the passing of it was adjourned to this meeting. No representations have been received on the Bill. I beg, therefore, to propose that the Bill be now passed.

The motion was put and agreed to.

The Council adjourned at 4-30 P. M.

K. KRISHNASWAMY RAO,
President.

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